



*Embassy of the United States of America*

P.O. Box 199  
Mbabane, Swaziland

5 March, 1987  
MMB - 7004

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau -- February 1987

#### I. GENERAL

A. Embassy GSO is proceeding with planned improvements and repairs to Bureau housing, but is still having difficulty with FBO over funding of upgrades to the new house occupied by editor [redacted]. In view of this problem, Bureau has requested and received approval from OL to proceed with planned security upgrades. Improvements planned for other Bureau houses, for which GSO has received and allotted approximately \$25K, include replacing the electrical panel in the engineer's house, remodeling the kitchen and replacing the security fence at deputy chief's house, and repairing termite damage to the dining room and installing shelving in the bureau chief's house.

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B. Much progress has been made during the month in utilizing the Bureau's computer capabilities. Thanks largely to the efforts of editor [redacted] who has taken on the additional duty of overseeing the Bureau's automation efforts, the RSA Press Review is now being prepared in soft copy. It is created on the IBM PC and then loaded into the XT, where a header is added, thus eliminating the need for retyping by the communicators. In addition, the Afrikaans and Portuguese section chiefs have begun experimenting with other PC applications, such as creating reference files and preparing the bi-weekly work schedules.

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#### II. OPERATIONS

##### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The RSA Bureau for Information announced that "cases of unrest" had decreased by 70 percent in the second half of 1986, which it attributed to the introduction of the state of emergency. Press restrictions under the state of emergency have also had a dramatic impact on the Bureau file, which decreased by 45 percent during the same period.

2. In a meeting with foreign correspondents on 3 February, RSA Foreign Minister Pik Botha announced the adoption of a "tougher line" toward the United States, saying that it was time to show the U.S. Congress "that it could not determine the future of South Africa." A few days later he reacted sharply to a report to President Reagan from a special advisory group, which called for

greater international pressure on South Africa to end apartheid. He added that Secretary of State George Shultz would not be welcome in South Africa if he wanted to discuss the report.

3. RSA domestic politics were highlighted by the adjournment of parliament to allow campaigning for the 6 May general election to the white House of Assembly. Several prominent National Party members, dissatisfied with the party's policy on reform, have resigned; and at least two, including the former ambassador to Great Britain, Dennis Worrall, have declared their intention to run as independents.

4. South Africa officially denied published reports that South African Air was involved in the illegal shipment of arms supplies to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

5. In the early hours of 19 February, the palace of Chief Sebe, president of the nominally independent homeland of Ciskei, was attacked by several truckloads of armed men. The attackers were quickly driven off and Chief Sebe was not injured. Ciskei accused the neighboring homeland of Transkei of engineering a coup attempt. Although Transkei denied the charge, South Africa warned Transkei not to allow its territory to be used for violence against Ciskei.

6. The U.S. and UK vetoes of the UN Security Council resolution calling for mandatory sanctions against South Africa drew the expected reactions. RSA Foreign Minister Pik Botha called the vote "predictable" and said it merely postponed the international "vendetta" against South Africa. The ANC "vehemently condemned" the vetoes, and the Zimbabwe foreign minister accused the United States of hypocrisy.

#### B. Lateral Services/Cruising

1. On 14 February, Lusaka Domestic Service disclosed that its medium wave transmitter had been off the air for about 2 weeks after being hit by lightning. The Bureau covers Lusaka almost exclusively from short wave frequencies, and coverage was not affected. ✓

2. Reception of the 0700 GMT and 1200 GMT Luanda Domestic Service casts has improved with the introduction of a new frequency, 9720 kHz. ✓

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### Personnel

Editor [ ] received her promotion to GS-11 step 2 as of 1 February 1987. STAT

Engineer [ ] was medically evacuated back to the Washington area on 16 February. STAT

### IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

With the help of the head of the local contract guard service, the deputy chief managed to kill a 5-foot Green Mamba snake which

had taken up residence in a large shrub in his back yard. The shrub was nearly burned down in the process, but the gardener believes it will survive.

[Redacted]

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Chief, Swaziland Bureau

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